

THE
CHARACTER
OF HIS
ROYAL HIGHNESS
WILLIAM HENRY
PRINCE
OF
ORANGE.

With Allowance.

LONDON:

Printed for Randall Taylor, near Stationers-Hall. MDCLXXXIX.

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W. H. Prince of Orange.



WHEN the Almighty designs a Great HERO to fight his Battels, and deliver his People from the Fury and Treachery of their Enemies, He inspires them with Courage, Prudence, Constancy, and Magnanimity; and so appears to be *William Henry* Prince of ORANGE, if we do but consider the Wonderful and Glorious Actions he hath performed both in Peace and War, and so affable, and of such a sweet Temper, that it may seem a doubt whether he hath made greater Conquests over his Enemies by his Sword, than by the Charming Dispositions of his Mind; as if he had not only the Meekness of *Moses*, but the Courage and Valiancy of *Joshua*.

And by his Birth he seems to be destined by Heaven to be the Saviour of his Country, and of the Protestant Religion; for his Grandfather, Uncle, and Father, were so many Bulwarks against the Fury and Tyranny of the *Spaniards*, and other sworn Enemies of their Country and Religion, which they bravely defended all their days, against Implacable Foes, to their Confusion, their Countries Peace and Safety, and to their own Everlasting Honour and Renown.

For *William* of Nassau, Prince of Orange, born in the Year 1533, as soon as he came to Man's Estate (finding his Country, and Religion, and his own Life, through the Cruelty of *Philip* of Spain, in imminent Danger, the Counts of *Egmont* and *Horn*, and Eighteen other Lords and Gentlemen, and 18000 of men, rank executed on several Scaffolds; and the utter Destruction of his Religion threatened by the *Spanish* Inquisition) generously took up Arms in Defence of his Country and Religion, and having drawn several of the States-General into an Association mutually to stand by one another; after having defeated the Bloody Duke of *Alva* in several Battels, called *Requesenes*, and *Don John* of Austria, Governor of the *Spanish* Netherlands for King *Philip*; and the *Spaniards* being no way able to withstand his Victorious Sword in the Field, caused him Treacherously and Barbarously to be Assassinated by one named *Balthazar Gerard*, a *Burgundian*. And thus fell the Great *William* of Nassau, a Sacrifice for his Religion, and Country.

Philip William his Son, being bred up by the *Spaniards* in the Catholic Religion, dyed without any Great Actions performed by him.

Maurice of Nassau, second Son of *William*, valiantly defended his Country for Forty Years, Won Forty Cities, and *Breda* by a Stratagem never paralleld by the greatest Captains; he obtain'd several Signal Victories, but especially the Famous Battel of *Newport*, and defended *Offen* Three Years, beleaguer'd by the Marquess *Spinola* with a Numerous Army; and Dyed in the Year 1625, loaden with Honourable Scars, but more with Renown and Glory.

Henry Frederick, Third Son of *William* Prince of *Orange*, was not only as couragious, but more fortunate than the rest; he took *Oldenfel*, *Groll*, *Bois le Due*, *Wessell*, *Mae-stricht*, *Rhinberg*, *Stek*, and afterwards the Castle and City of *Breda* in Four Months, which cost *Spinola* Twelve to master; Won Three Naval Battels, in one of which he took 20000000 *l.* from the *Spaniards*; in another, destroyed 40 of their Ships of War; and thus having utterly broken the Strength of *Spain*, and forced that Proud Monarch to Renounce his Claim to their Territories, he may be justly said to be the Founder of the Most Potent Republick in the World; and under the Tablet of this Heroick Prince, and his Royal Family, deservedly might have been these Verses,

Illustris Origo est

Principis Augusti, Qualis erit Soboles?

Resp.

Qualis erit? qualem depinxit Homerus Achillem.

Martii. & Consilio Nestora, Talis erit.

And now let us see whether *William Henry* Prince of *Orange*, by this present Character will appear to be such; for I design not the History of his Life, but a short view of those Glorious Actions he hath performed; by which the whole World will better know him, than those that have stared on his wonderful Proportion and Features ere since his Cradle.

He is Son to *Henry Frederick* of *Nassau*, and *Mary* of *England*, Eldest Daughter of *Charles* the First, King of *Great Britain*, and seems to have ingrossed all the Virtues and Glories of his Ancestors, the Courage and solid Judgment of his Grandfather *William*; the Fortitude and Policy of his Uncle *Maurice*; the Prudence, Fortunate Success and Magnanimity of his Father *Henry Frederick*, and with these Virtues he raised the Republick his Ancestors had saved from Destruction, to a Grandure able to cope with the greatest Monarchs upon Earth.

In his Minority the *De Witts*, who had Treacherously sold their Country to the *French*, with a Devilish Policy undermined the Royal Infant, and his weak Party; they ingratiously took from him all his Rights, Jurisdictions and Priviledges which his Ancestors had purchased with the toils of their dearest Blood and Lives, and thereby Peace, Freedom, and Grandure, for the *United States* of the *Netherlands*.

When he was 22 Years of Age, the effect of the *De Witts* Treachery began to appear, for the *French* King invading the *Netherlands* with a Powerful Army, like a swelling Ocean when it overtops its Banks overturns all, the *De Witts* had put into the *Garrisons* Governours, who were at their own Devotion, and mann'd them with raw Soldiers and Burghers; so that through the Cowardise of the one, and Treachery of the other, the *French* no sooner appear'd at their Gates, but they basely surrendred in a Day, Fortifications that might have defended themselves from the whole Power of *France*, many Months.

This awakened the *Dutch* out of their Lethargy, and the People Sacrificing *Cornelius* and *John De Witt* to their Fury, he was at *Dort*, and afterwards by the States of *Holland*, *Zealand*, and *West Friseland*, declared *Scandalholder*, and *Capitain*, and Admiral General

General of the *United Provinces*, with all the Rights, Jurifdictions, and Priviledges his Ancestors had enjoyed.

And now our Young *HERO* taking Command of the Army, he first valiantly repulses the *French* from the Walls of *Ardenburg*, the Bishop of *Munster* from *Groning*, takes *Coeverden* in a Day, with the loss of only 60 Men; which cost the Bishop of *Munster* much Time and Blood to master; as also *Naerden*, *Ban*, *Brevill*, *Lechnich*, *Waerden*, *Creveceur*, *Hardwick*, *Utrecht*, *Bommell*, *Campen*, *Ellburgh*, *Hatten*, *Steenwick*, *Meppel*, *Northom*, *Zutphen*, *Tiel*, *Arnhem*, *Dinant*, *Deventer*, and *Graves*, with a far greater Celerity than they were taken by the *French* and *Munsterians*.

But now he is to engage one of the most Renowned Captains in the World; and indeed whoever reads the Life of the Prince of *Conde*, will find it full fraught with Wonders of Courage, Conduct and Policy: The Prince of *Conde* lay encamped behind the River *Pieton*, the Prince of *Orange* with his own Forces, the *Germans* and *Spaniards* his Allies, endeavour by several Stratagems and Provocations to draw him to a Battel; but that wary General made their Attempts vain; whereupon the Prince of *ORANGE* directs his March to *Binch*, but being to pass through very difficult Ways and Lanes, the Prince of *Conde* knowing his Advantage, suffers the Van-Guard, and some part of the main Body to pass by him, and then silently drawing out his Army, and putting them into Battalia, furiously falls upon the Prince of *Vaudemont*, who was to secure the Rear-guard with 4000 Horse; *Vaudemont* sends to the Prince of *ORANGE* for Two Battalions of Infantry, (the Place where he engaged being not so proper for Horse) and has Three sent him, and withall the Troops that lay on the other side of the River that runs by *Seness*, the *French* could not force them from their Post, but passing the River a little higher, and joining all their Forces, the Confederates wanting Elbow-Room, and the *French* falling upon them from all Parts, the Confederates were enforced to retire, having lost several Principal Officers: Then the Prince of *Conde* pushing on his advantage, fell on vigorously on the Horse, commanded by the Prince of *Vaudemont* and put them to the Rout, and afterwards on the Duke de *Villa Hermosa*, who commanded 16 Battalions of Infantry, who valiantly withstood their Charge, but at last was forced to a disorderly Retreat, and so put those that came to his Assistance into much Confusion, whereby the Prince of *Conde* became Master of the Baggage of the *Dutch Army*.

Things being in this ill Posture, it was high time for the Young *Belgick Lyon* to rouse his Courage; he embattel'd the *Imperialists* and *Spaniards* in the Left Wing, and his own men in the Right, in such Excellent Order, that being joined by General *Souches*, who was advanced some hours March before with the Van-Guard, that altho the *French* were never observed to Fight before with such obstinate Resolution, yet he put a Check to the Progress of their Victory: The Valourous Prince of *ORANGE* ran with his Sword in his Hand, and stopt the flight of his Egitives, then threw himself into the midst of his Enemies; so that his Army being animated by so Glorious an Example, Fought with incredible Bravery.

Neither had the Prince of *Conde* any better Success in his Attacking the main Body, or the Right Wing of the Confederates, altho he charged them with his *Curiaffers*, and the Troops of Horse of the *French King's Guards*; for the Prince of *ORANGE* with a Prodigy of Valour maintain'd the Fight, until Nights Black Mantle shrouded the Prince of *Conde*, who under that Covert made a disorderly Retreat with his Army, and left the Field of Battel, the certain Sign of Victory, to the Conquering Prince of *ORANGE*, who snatch'd the Wreath of Bays that *Conde* had won at the beginning of the Battel from his Brows, and placed it on his own.

I shall give you but one Instance more of his Martial Prowess, and that is the Wonders he performed against the Duke of *Luxemburg*, a Renowned and Experienced

Captain, at the Famous Battel of *Mons*; *Luxemburg* was so advantageously posted, and slighted the Prince's Design of Attacking him so much, that he was pleased to say, *He would not rise from his Dinner for the Attempts of the rash Boy*; but the Prince Charged him with such a Manly Courage and Fury, through all the Storms of Shot and Fire, altho he was to March up a Hill before he could reach him, and afterwards through deep and difficult Lanes and Ways, and thick Woods, that he not only made him lose his Dinner, but forced him to seek a new Lodging, for he drove him out of his Camp, and possess himself of it, his Tents and Baggage.

And thus I have given you a short view of the Martial Actions of this Heroick Prince; and will now only Instance a few of his Politicks relating to the Civil Government.

There have been many Illustrious Men carried on by the Heat of Youthful Courage, whom Success hath Crowned with Victory, that have been esteemed great Conquerors; but all History cannot produce a Parallel of a Person of the Age of this Young Prince, to have been so great a States-man, and so well skilled in the Politicks of Government.

When he was declared *Stadtholder* at the Age of about 12 Years, he found the Government quite out of Frame, the Laws prevaricated or overturned; and such a Regulation in Cities and Corporations, as we lately had here in *England*; all the Just, Grave, Worthy Magistrates turned out, and only such put into their Places (tho never so undeserving) as favoured the Faction of the *De Witts*.

And as the City of *Dord* first led the way, and made him their *Stadtholder*, he not only settled that City, but *West-Friesland*, and the City of *Middleburg*, which were all in Uproar and Confusion; he no sooner appear'd amongst them, but their Differences and Mutinies vanished; the Fame of his Success against their Enemies abroad, and the Sweetness and Moderation which he express'd at home, gained him so much Reverence, that their Arms fell out of their Hands, the Ancient Magistrates were restored, and all those States and Cities to their former Peace and Tranquility.

He never had the least Relax from his Martial Employments, but he applied himself in that spare time in Reformation of the Government; he caused New Elections to be made of Persons to officiate in the College of Counsellors Elect; and a New Choice to represent the Body of the Nobility; and placed Men of Integrity and Ability to be of the Magistracy and Councils of the several Cities; he drew up such Orders for their well-Government for the future, which he was so far from imposing on them, that after they had debated them in their several Assemblies, they not only Joyfully approved of them, but in requital settled the Offices of Governour-General, Captain and Admiral General on him and his Male Issue.

Thus this Valorous and Prudent Prince redeemed his Country and Religion from the slavery of the Potent *French* King, and resettled the Government upon its Ancient Basis, which had been in a horrid Confusion, through the Treachery of the *De Witts*, and the Disorders which the *French* Invasion had contaminated it withal; and in the Year 1678 that Victorious *French* Monarch was forced, and did conclude a Peace with the Prince of *ORANGE*, much to his Glory and Renown, and as much to the Advantage of the States of the *United Provinces*; the *French* King quitting by this Peace, all that he had taken from them. But as if he were designed by Heaven, not only to be the Saviour of his own Country and Religion, but the Champion of the Lord of Hosts, to deliver his true Church from the Fury, Treachery, and Tyranny of its Enemies; the Church of *England* being surrounded with Dangers, that threatned her on every side, those Laws that were made and accounted as the Bulwarks against Popery, being all made invalid. The Judges and Chief Ministers of State then in Office corrupted,

rupted, and such as fought her Ruin. The King himself, tho' of Excellent Qualities, yet poysoned by Jesuits Powder, and other corrupted Officers, by whom he was misled to his great Misfortune. The Church of *England* being in this Deplorable Condition, sending up her Prayers to Heaven for a *Moses* to deliver her, and withal imploring the aid, by her Clergy, Nobility, and Gentry, of our *William Henry* Prince of *ORANGE*, he pitying her Tears, and to approve himself the only Champion for the Protestant Religion, takes the Almighty's Cause in hand, and with an inconsiderable Force to what was raised against him, Lands in *England*, and finds the effects of his Virtues more powerful than his Sword; for the Fame of his Valour and Conduct, Prudence, Justice and Moderation, being his forerunners, the Gates of all Cities and Strong-holds opened to him: And not only so, but Fortresses more obstinate and difficult to Conquer; I mean the hearts of the Clergy, Nobility and Gentry of the whole Kingdom: And it is much a Nobler Conquest over the Hearts, than the Bodies of Men. And he, to shew that his Zeal in this Expedition was only for the *Protestant* Religion, spurs on the Convention of the Lords and Commons Assembled, and leaves it wholly to them to settle the Government, and their Religion, upon such a firm Basis, that it may hereafter outbrave all the Treachery and Fury of *Rome*; and that the Laws and Properties of the Subject may be secured from Tyranny and Oppression for the future.

I shall now come to a Copallary upon the whole: As to his Physiognomy, it is Martial; but tho' there is a fierceness in his Eyes, yet withal a Charming Sweetness, and a little Melancholly Air in his Countenance, in which you may read Temperance and Mildness; His Courage has been such in his green years, that he opposed the *French* King in Person, the great *Conde*, *Turenne*, *Luxemburgh*, and several other great Generals; and not only measured his Sword with them, but gained much more Honour upon them, than they did on him. His Patience and Temperance was so great, that he endured all the indignities the *De Witts* and States-General put upon him in his minority, without a murmur: His Prudence and Policy in Civil Government is without parallel, in the settling the Government and Religion of his Country, notwithstanding all the confusions the *De Witts*, and the *French* Invasion had brought it into, on the old Foundation: And not only so, but improved its Glory to such a pitch, through his Conduct, that now the States-General of the United Provinces are the most potent in the World. His Constancy appears, that he was not at all shaken or dejected at the stupendious devastation the *French* King made, when he first like a Torrent overwhelmed his Country; much less at the vast advantages that great General the Prince of *Conde* obtained over him at the beginning of the Battel of *Seneff*; but with a Constancy and Resolution worthy himself, having born the brunt of their fury, triumph'd over it, and all their Policies. He talks not much, but very well; and of great Judgment to discern the best advice given, whether at a Council of War, or a Debate at the Convention of the States General: Magnificent in his Entertainments, without prodigality. Women and Wine, the two great Seducers of Mankind, never could intice him to the least frailty. Thus the Charms of his Valour, Justice, Temperance, and the Sweetness of his Disposition makes him Triumph, not only in Battel, but by a more powerful Conquest, over the hearts of his Opponents, as the Nobility and Gentry of *England* must acknowledg: So that He may more justly, than *Titus Vespasian*, claim the stile of

Deliciae humani Generis.

F I N I S.